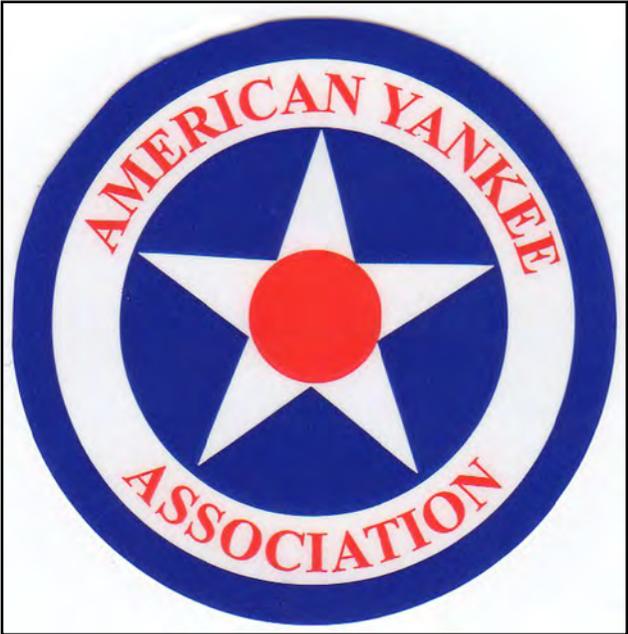


# American Yankee Association

2018 Convention, Hutchinson, Kansas

September 24 - 27, 2018



*KHUT airport.*



## Preview of AYA 2018

As many regular convention attendees already know, the AYA Board of Directors approved the location for the 2018 Annual Convention at their last meeting in Paso Robles, CA. That location is Hutchinson, KS (KHUT). <http://www.kansastravel.org/hutchinson/>

The dates are September 24 - 27. This is the familiar Monday to Thursday format that has been common for the past few conventions. What is not familiar is the month for the convention. This will be the first convention held in the Fall and we expect comfortable temperatures and beautiful flying weather to boot.

The convention chairs are Don and Cathy Cochran. They have put together a team of past convention chairs to assist them. This team is called the Convention Action Team, aka the "CAT", and consists of Graham Smith, Bob and Kathy Hess, Scott Sanders and Susan Dollar, and honorary member Dick Martin.

This short article is just to whet your appetite for what we plan to be an exciting and fun filled convention. We know it will be difficult to beat the fun we had in Paso Robles last May but we are up to the challenge! Watch for more details of what we have planned in future *AYA Stars* and here. For now, here are a couple of things just to start the planning process.

The convention hotel is the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott. The hotel has given us a great rate of \$89.00 plus tax. This hotel was built in 2012 and has very nice accommodations. It is only 2.6 miles from the airport and

is a four minute drive. The hotel has blocked 60 rooms for the convention. Their direct number is (620) 259-8787. When making a reservation, advise you are with the AYA Convention.

The Hutchinson airport (KHUT) is adjacent to the city with easy access. It is a towered field with three runways and the tower folks are excited to have us come for the convention. Airspace around KHUT makes flying into and out of the airport quite easy.

This should help you get started planning for a great cross country to Kansas. Look for more exciting and interesting things that Kansas has to offer in the next *AYA Star* and here.



*KHUT Terminal Building*

*Host hotel, Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott.*



# Planning for Convention

by: Don and Cathy Cochran, Convention Chairs

With the Winter season in full swing throughout much of the USA and Canada, it is a good opportunity to take some time and start planning this years travels and cross country flights. For many of us, the urge grows to get in the air and take a long cross country trip and enjoy the warmer temperatures and blue skies of the coming seasons. The thoughts of visiting new places, seeing old friends and meeting new ones makes us feel warmer already!

One such trip to consider is taking in the annual AYA Convention. As most of our members know, the annual convention moves on a cycle, East - Central - West - Central - back to East and so on. This years annual AYA convention will be held in Hutchinson, Kansas (KHUT) on September 24 - 27. This is a Monday through Thursday format with Monday being the arrival day similar to the past few conventions. The name of the airport is Hutchinson Regional Airport (KHUT) and it is located adjacent to the city on the eastern side.

Hutchinson is located in the South central part of Kansas and is an ideal location for a convention. Planning is well underway and your convention chairs are working hard to make this a great convention and vacation experience for everyone attending.

The geographic center of the contiguous United States is located in Kansas which

makes the travel distances from both coasts nearly equal. <http://www.kansastravel.org/geographicalcenter.htm>



Flying in Kansas is a delightful experience with so much wide open airspace, rural landscape and moderately low elevations across the entire state. The lowest point in Kansas is 679 feet above sea level in the southeast corner of the state. The highest point in Kansas at 4,039 feet above sea level, is found in the northwest part of the state and is called Mount Sunflower. The elevation at Hutchinson is 1542 feet above sea level.

The weather in Hutchinson during the latter part of September is nearly perfect with temperatures ranging from a low of near 60F at night to a high of near 80F in early afternoon. This along with low humidity makes it a pleasant time for the outdoor activities and events that we typically enjoy at AYA conventions. The average wind is around 10 - 12 MPH and is from a southerly direction about 75% of the time.

As you are planning your trip, you may want to allow extra time to take in regional attractions and learn about some of the his-

torical events that have occurred in Kansas. The state is rich with old west history and has a lot to offer for visitors and residents alike. Here are just a few that may pique your interest and make your trip to/from convention even more enjoyable.

Abilene, KS, (K78) is 58 NM Northeast of Hutchinson and is home to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum. He served as an Army General during WW2 and went on to become the 34th president of the USA. <https://www.dwighteisenhower.com/>

Dodge City, KS, is 101 NM West of Hutchinson and is one of the most recognized towns of Old West history. It was established on the Santa Fe Trail and became a destination for Texas cattle drives. It became legendary for the work of lawmen such as Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp. <https://www.dodgecity.org/>

Beaumont, KS, is 68 NM Southeast of Hutchinson and is home to Beaumont Cafe and Hotel. The town was a stop for a stage-coach line and eventually became a railroad stop. A wooden water tower was built in 1885 to serve the steam locomotives and still stands today. The airport is near by and you can taxi your airplane into the town and park across the street from the café and hotel. <http://www.kansastravel.org/beaumont-hotel.htm>

Regardless of which direction you travel to get to Hutchinson, you will be traveling along one or more trails that were used by settlers, miners and Indians in the 1800's. Many have heard of the Santa Fe Trail and

the Oregon Trail but these are just a few of the many trails that crossed Kansas. Many towns were established along these trails and each has its own story to tell. <http://www.legendsofkansas.com/trails.html>

I hope this article will entice you to make the cross country flight to the next AYA Convention in September. There is a lot to see and do not only in Kansas but also along whatever route you choose coming to and going from Hutchinson. Take the time to start planning your trip now and see what trails you can make on your way to and from AYA 2018.

One thing that is important to all convention chairs are the volunteers who ask to help with convention events and activities. As with past conventions, it is all of the volunteers, not the convention chairs, who make the convention a success. Volunteering is a way of becoming a part of the convention and not just an attendee. It adds a new dimension to the convention experience, just ask anyone who has volunteered at a past convention. It could be that volunteers do so just to get the pin given out, but I think it is an indicator of the caliber of individuals that make the AYA the best type club out there. If you would like to volunteer or have ideas for the convention you can e-mail the convention chairs at: [aya2018@aya.org](mailto:aya2018@aya.org).

Make plans to be in Hutchinson, Kansas next September and look for more convention information in future *Stars* and on the AYA web site.

## Kansas Aviation Trivia

Stop for a moment and ask yourself: How many aircraft manufacturers have existed in the state of Kansas from the beginning of aviation until present?

OK, there is Cessna Aircraft Company, Beech Aircraft Company, Learjet and of course Boeing Wichita. End of story, right? Not hardly! Now think harder for a little bit... Stearman Aircraft, Bede Aircraft Company, North American Aviation and Mooney Aircraft Company. Surely that must be the bulk of them. That makes eight. This has been pretty easy.

Don't feel too proud yet. The real answer is approximately 100. Check out "The History of Kansas Aircraft Manufacturing 1899 - 1993" at the Wings Over Kansas web site. <http://www.wingsoverkansas.com/legacy/a93/>

Ready for another aviation question: How many aviation electronics manufacturers have their roots in Kansas, past and present?

OK, this one is easy, right? King Radio and Garmin.

Here are just a few more and I am sure it only just scratches the surface.

- Wulfsberg Electronics: Airborne radio telephone (Flitephone) and communication radios
- Frederickson Communications: Airborne radio telephone and communication radios
- Bonzer: Radio altimeters
- Airport Systems International: Ground

based navigation equipment, ILS, VOR, Marker

- Selex Es: Ground based navigation equipment, ILS, VOR, Marker
- Airfield Technology, Inc.: Airborne flight inspection equipment
- JcAir: Aviation ground support test equipment

These are just a few of the many manufacturers as well as the suppliers and subcontractors who have made their home in Kansas.

Ready for one last one? How many US Naval Bases have been located in Kansas?

To quote a familiar Grumpy Gang member, Ni Thomas (who spent his career sailing the seas), remarked when he visited Kansas, "This is the farthest I have ever been from the sea". Then, surely the answer must be none since Kansas is square in the middle of the country and so far from the oceans.

The answer is not just one but three! These bases were used to train Naval Aviators!

1. Fairfax Field, Kansas City, Kansas had a naval reserve air base commissioned on July 1, 1935.

2. Olathe Naval Air Station began operation in July, 1942.

3. Hutchinson Naval Air Station was Commissioned on October 27, 1942.

I hope you enjoyed this little bit of Kansas aviation trivia. Come join us in Hutchinson next September at the annual AYA convention and share in the rich aviation history here in Kansas.

## AYA 2018 Volunteers

Planning for the next AYA Convention is well underway. The convention chairs have been working with the Airport Manager, ATC Traffic Manager, the FBO and the Greater Hutchinson Convention/ Visitors Bureau to make the next convention an exciting, unique and fun event. The support in Hutchinson for planning the convention has been amazing!

Some of you had the opportunity to meet Holly Leiker from the Greater Hutchinson Convention/Visitors Bureau at the convention last year in Paso Robles. Holly traveled to Paso Robles to make a presentation at the Board Meeting promoting Hutchinson as a convention site for 2018. She then joined in the convention activities to experience what takes place at the convention. This level of support has been typical from everyone we have worked with in Hutchinson.

One of the tasks in progress is to decide on the airport activities and events that we have enjoyed at conventions for many years. As you probably know, the actual convention is run by volunteers. This is where you can help contribute to a great time at this years convention. If there are activities or events that you would like to see please contact the convention chairs so that we can bring them to this years convention.

With the convention still several months away we have plenty of time to have volunteers step forward and take on an event or activity. We are putting the list together and would like to get you signed up for something of your choice. If would like to take on an event or activity please contact us at 913-856-4075 or e-mail at [aya2018@aya.org](mailto:aya2018@aya.org).

## Preview of AYA 2018, KHUT, Kansas

by: Don and Cathy Cochran, Convention Chairs

In previous articles about the next AYA Convention in Hutchinson, Kansas, we have focused on some of the regional and historical things to see and do in Kansas. With this issue of the *AYA Star*, we would like to tell you a little bit about the city of Hutchinson itself. If you have never been to Hutchinson before, you may be surprised at some of the things the city has to offer and that make this a great place to hold a convention like ours.

Hutchinson was founded by C.C. Hutchinson, who was an Indian agent, in 1871. This is the year that the Santa Fe Railroad was built through that part of the state. Many Kansas communities and cities sprang up to support the railroads, major trails and destinations for cattle drives and Hutchinson is one of those. The population of Hutch, as the locals call it, is 42,080 according to the 2010 United States Census.

As you fly into Hutch, you may notice that there are several large grain elevators in the city. The longest is 2573 feet long and is the second longest one in the country (Wichita has one 83 feet longer). These grain elevators are used to store and market the crops, primarily wheat, grown in the surrounding area. Kansas is the largest wheat producing state and is called the "Wheat State".

You will most likely fly across the Arkansas River as you reach Hutch.

The river passes by the city on the South side. In Kansas we pronounce this as the "ar-

KAN-zes River". The river is the sixth-longest river in the United States. It originates in the Colorado Rocky Mountains and flows to the Mississippi river some 1,469 miles away.

The airport is on the East side of the city and has three runways with parallel taxiways for each. There is a control tower and the volume of air traffic is light. This combination along with the full support of the ATC Traffic Manager and tower crew will make this an ideal location for the air activities that we enjoy at conventions each year. There is a large ramp area in front of the terminal and airport restaurant that will provide excellent viewing for all of the ground based airplane events. The Airport Manager, Pieter Miller, is in full support of the convention and in a recent communication said "we plan on making a big "to-do" about the AYA hosting their annual conference here".

Wells Aircraft is the FBO at the Hutchinson Airport. A picture of the FBO appeared on the front cover of the January/February *AYA Star*. The owner, Don Rogers, is a former Cheetah owner and AYA member. The business is a full service facility and specializes in the Cirrus line of aircraft. Don is enthusiastic about the upcoming AYA Convention and is assisting the convention chairs with planning details.

The city of Hutch has numerous restaurants, shopping opportunities and local attractions that will keep you busy in your free time. Two such local attractions are the Cosmosphere and Stratataca. The Cosmosphere is a space and science center with a flown SR-71 Blackbird in the lobby.

Strataca is an underground salt mine and museum. Look for more information on these two unique and interesting attractions and in the next *AYA Star*.

For anyone who enjoys golf, you may want to check out the Prairie Dunes Country Club. It has been ranked among the best golf courses in the U.S., and has hosted several United States Golf Association national championship tournaments including the U.S. Women's Open in 2002 and the U.S. Senior Open in 2006. Tom Watson described it as "A little bit of Scotland in the Land of Oz. Sunflowers instead of heather. Oceans of grain instead of the sea. But, like Scotland, be prepared...the wind always blows."

The convention hotel is the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott. They have given us a great rate of \$89.00 plus tax. This hotel was built in 2012 and has very nice accommodations. We have blocked 60 rooms for the convention. Their direct number is (620) 259-8787. When making a reservation, advise you are with the AYA Convention.

Make a flight "Over the Rainbow" and come join us in Hutch this September 24-27 for a fun and interesting time in the Land of Ahs.



*Kansas State Seal*

## Convention Logos

by: Don and Cathy Cochran

One fun aspect of being convention chairs is getting to select the logo for that years convention. Logos are unique to each convention and most always depict a Grumman in flight. A good example is last years convention in California Wine Country where a Grumman in flight is towing a wine bottle. We have seen airplanes adapted for towing gliders and banners but never a wine bottle. It must be a new STC as we are sure our Safety Director, Ron Levy, would not approve such a flight otherwise.

Being long time Kansas residents, as we travel around the country we are occasionally asked how Dorothy and Toto are doing back in Kansas. This seemed like a good opportunity to make "The Wizard of Oz" a part

of the convention logo. With that theme in mind, the volunteers for the logo design, Bob Hess and son Blake, went to work. A variety of logos were submitted and you saw some of them in the last issue of the *Star*. Look for some of these to appear on this year's convention apparel in the next *Star*. Thank you Bob and Blake.

With the convention still several months away we have plenty of time for more volunteers to step forward and take on an event or activity. We are putting the list together and would like to get you signed up for something of your choice. Being a volunteer is a good opportunity to add your personal touch to an event or activity and make your convention experience a unique event for yourself and others as well. If would like to take on an event or activity please contact us at (913) 856-4075 or e-mail at [aya2018@aya.org](mailto:aya2018@aya.org)



*A couple of the also ran designs.*

## AYA 2018 Convention Attractions

The city of Hutchinson is home to two major attractions that will be of interest to convention attendees. These are the Cosmosphere, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, and Strataca, an underground salt mine museum. This article is intended to give you just a little information of what to expect when you visit these attractions.

Let's start with the Cosmosphere which opened in 1980 and has grown in size to a facility of 105,000 square feet. As you approach the building you will see two rockets, a Mercury-Redstone Launch Vehicle rocket and a Titan II rocket used in the Gemini program. Both are authentic.

Inside, a major part of the Cosmosphere is the Hall of Space Museum.

This museum contains the largest combined collection of American and Russian space artifacts in the world. There are several galleries, each with a theme including Early Space Flight, The Cold War, Apollo Missions and a German Gallery.

Each gallery has many displays to take a visitor through that period in time or space program in the pursuit of space flight. Many items have actual time in flight while other displays highlight the various work needed to pioneer man's flight into space. Some of the items on display include the flown Apollo 13 command module Odyssey, flown Gemini X spacecraft, flown unmanned Russian Vostok, both American and Russian space suits.



Other items on display include several flight-ready back up satellites, a V-1 Buzz Bomb, a V-2 Rocket Engine and much more.

In addition to the museum, the Cosmosphere has other attractions, a two-story dome theater, a planetarium and an attraction that will trip you back in time to the 1930s lab of Dr. Robert Goddard, the father of modern rocketry.

To make this even more exciting, the Cosmosphere is allowing free access to the Hall of Space Museum for AYA members during the convention. The other attractions will have fees and tickets can be purchased for those in the main lobby. See <http://cosmo.org/> for more info.

Strataca is a salt mine museum and was previously known as the Kansas Underground Salt Museum. It is built in one of the world's largest deposits of rock salt and is 650 feet below the surface. It provides a unique opportunity to explore the environs carved from salt deposits formed 275 million years ago. This is the only salt mine accessible to

tourists in the country. Tours are guided and take about two hours to complete.

The ride down takes 90 seconds in the elevator. Conditions in the mine are very predictable and constant. The mine naturally maintains a temperature of 68 degrees with a relative humidity of around 45%. Many rooms or chambers have been mined over the years resulting in large room like areas ranging in size from 2,500 to 15,000 square feet with ceiling heights ranging from 11 to 17 feet.

Salt was discovered in this region in 1887 by a land developer. He was drilling for oil and discovered salt instead. It was the first significant salt discovery west of the Mississippi. Salt mining removes 500,000 ton of rock salt each year. This salt is primarily used to de-ice roads in the mid-west and eastern US.

A guided tram tour, the Dark Ride, takes visitors through a maze of chambers beyond the museum area to see various features and workings of the mine environment. There are also several galleries to provide some insight to the mining operation and the work needed to get the rock salt loaded and transported out of the mine.

There is also an Underground Vaults & Storage Gallery located in the museum. This gallery is provided by a company that provides protective, secured storage capabilities. The company stores many original movie masters including *Gone with the Wind* and *Ben Hur*, as well as television show masters. They also store medical records, oil and gas charts, and a host of other valuable documents and materials from all 50 states and

many foreign countries. See <http://underkansas.org/> for more info.

We hope you find these attractions interesting and an added reason to come to AYA 2018 in Hutchinson. Start making your plans now to attend and join us for a fun week renewing old friendships and making new friends in Hutch. Start by making your hotel reservations soon.

The convention hotel is the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott. The hotel has given us a great rate of \$89.00 plus tax. This hotel was built in 2012 and has very nice accommodations. The hotel has blocked 60 rooms for the convention. Their direct number is (620) 259-8787. When making a reservation, advise you are with the AYA Convention.

## AYA 2018

by: Don and Cathy Cochran

Plans for this years convention in Hutchinson, Kansas, or "Hutch" as the locals refer to the city, are well underway with lots of fun activities and local attractions to take in. With this issue of the Star, we will try to give you a few of the highlights of what to expect for your convention experience.

This years schedule will follow a similar pattern as last years convention in Paso Robles. That was a fun experience and your convention chairs and their team are working to outdo them in the fun you will experience in Hutch this year.

Monday is the "Arrival Day" for many who attend. There will be vans to take you to and from the hotel throughout the day as well as



during the week. The hotel is only a short drive from the airport and the trip only takes about five minutes so you will not have to rent a car unless that is your preference.

The annual Board Meeting will be held in the morning at the hotel meeting room. The meeting is open to the membership and guests are always welcome. The meeting provides insight into the operation of our international organization and you can observe your leadership at work.

There will be an evening reception and dinner for all to enjoy as we renew friendships with our Grumman family and friends. This event will be conveniently located inside the terminal building at the airport. The Airport Steak House is a very nice restaurant and the owner is making special arrangements for our event by closing to the public that evening and making the entire restaurant available to the AYA. There is a meeting room for the First Timers Meeting, casual and formal seating for dining along with a cash bar. The meal will be a buffet style and the evening will be casual attire so come as you are.

Tuesday will be the "Fun at the Airport Day" with the usual games and events that

are popular at each convention. We will have tables and chairs set up in a large hanger provided by our FBO host, Wells Aircraft. This will provide a convenient location for pilot briefings, the Swap 'N Shop and a place to relax and visit between the activities.

A box lunch will be served as we enjoy a little hanger flying with fellow AYA friends. Tall tales may be told at your own peril.

Wednesday is the "Local Exploration Day" and is the perfect day to take in the local attractions and explore the city. There are many nice and unique restaurants to appeal to most every taste. Shopping in the downtown district will provide a fun experience while seeing the local culture and small town atmosphere common throughout the Midwest.

This is also a great opportunity to visit the museum at the Cosmosphere and to tour Strataca the under ground salt mine and museum. Look for more information on these in another article in this *Star*.

Flying is another activity you may want to participate in as an option.

There are two attractions that may appeal to you. One is to visit the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum in Abilene, Kansas (K78). Abilene is 58 NM Northeast of Hutchinson. President Eisenhower was the 34th president of the USA and is well known for his service as an Army General during WWII.

For an unusual flying destination, consider a flight to Beaumont (Kansas not Texas) for lunch or an early dinner. Beaumont is 68 NM Southeast of Hutchinson and is home to

Beaumont Cafe and Hotel. The town was a stop for a stagecoach line and eventually became a railroad stop. A wooden water tower was built in 1885 to serve the steam locomotives and still stands today. The airport is near by and you can taxi your airplane into the town and park across the street from the café and hotel.

In the evening we will have the “Dick Martin Memorial Ice Cream Social” at the Cosmosphere meeting room followed by the General Membership Meeting. A silent auction will also take place with all proceeds going to the AYA Scholarship fund.

Thursday will be the “Education Day” with seminars and presentations made by various members and guests. These will take place at the Cosmosphere in their meeting room.

In the late afternoon, the Cosmosphere will close to the public and then the main lobby will be reopened for the AYA Banquet exclusively. There will be tables and chairs set up in the area beneath the SR-71. The evening will begin with a “happy hour” with a cash bar for socialization followed by the catered meal.

Friday is the “Departure Day” assuming you do not need another day to rest up from all the fun you had during the week. The vans will be running each day providing transportation to and from all events and activities in Hutch. Everything is within relatively short distances and the wait times for a van will be short.

We hope you will consider making a flight “Over the Rainbow” and come join us in Hutch this September 24-27 for a fun and interesting time in the Land of Ahs.



*Wells Aircraft is our host FBO. See <http://hut.wellsac.com/about-location.php> for info.*

## **Kansas - The Land of Ahs**

One of the classic movies that continues to be replayed each year is "The Wizard of Oz". The original movie is from 1939 and begins with a farm setting in rural Kansas. The song "Over The Rainbow" was written for that movie and was sung by Judy Garland who played the role of Dorothy. In the movie Dorothy, Toto and her new friends travel the Yellow Brick Road on their journey to the Emerald City in the Land of Oz.

With the first ever AYA Convention in Kansas, the theme from "The Wizard of Oz" seems like a perfect fit for the convention theme and logo. As you travel over the rainbow on your journey to and from Kansas you may want to plan time for a stop at Wamego, Kansas, (69K) to take in the Oz Museum. Wamego is 101 NM Northeast of Hutchinson. For more information visit their website at: <https://ozmuseum.com/>.

Come join us in Hutchinson next September and spend some time in "The Land of Ahs".

# **HUTCHINSON, KS**



# **AYA2018**